

E 'Specially' DECS

A weekly email update from the Division of Exceptional Children Services
to Directors of Special Education on current issues, information and events.
October 11, 2004 - Volume 1, Number 23

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Question of the Week: (Submitted from the 8th Floor)

I have had an increase in the number of students referred for special education that teachers believe are dyslexic. What testing, besides the basic referral for special education, should be administered?

Answer: This is an on-going question. Here is a basic scenario you may follow.

1. When teachers or parents say they believe a child may be dyslexic, ask, "Please define what you mean by dyslexic?" There are many definitions of dyslexia, which can cover the entire gamut of areas within the learning disability category in the Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KARs). Is the teacher talking about mirror reading/writing, reading comprehension, basic reading skills, phonics, etc.?
2. Once the student's difficulty is defined, a discussion may then take place regarding the specific areas of concern for the student. (This is the intervention stage discussion.) The discussion should center on the student's performance regarding each area of concern. If an area of concern is identified, then specific, intentional intervention strategies should be developed and implemented.
3. If interventions are not successful and a referral for evaluation is recommended by the ARC, testing is specific to the identified areas of concern within the learning disabilities category in 707 KAR 1:280, Section 1, (52). Dyslexia is given as an example of a Specific Learning Disability within the Kentucky regulation.

Note: If a parent makes the referral, testing may be performed simultaneously with the interventions.

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The Question of the Week will be an on-going feature of E 'Specially' DECS. If you have a special education question that you believe would be of general interest to other Directors of Special Education, email your suggestion to Sammie Lambert at slambert@kde.state.ky.us

Time Sensitive Notice
FY 2005 Maintenance of Fiscal Effort

Forms for completed the federally required Maintenance of Fiscal Effort/Excess Cost/Non-Supplanting report may be downloaded from the Division of Exceptional Children website at:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Student+and+Family+Support/Exceptional+Children/Forms+and+Documents/Maintenance+of+Fiscal+Effort.htm>

This link will give you access to the form and instructions for completing this requirement.

Completed forms are due no later than **October 31, 2004** and should be submitted electronically to cthacker@kde.state.ky.us. If you have questions concerning the Maintenance of Fiscal Effort, Excess Cost, and Non-Supplanting requirements, please contact Chris Thacker via email at cthacker@kde.state.ky.us or by phone at (502) 564-5279.

Contact Information for E 'Specially' DECS

- Sammie Lambert at slambert@kde.state.ky.us for information on newsletter content.

- Chris Thacker at 502 564-4738 for technical difficulties in receiving *E 'Specially' DECS*.

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Forwarding of E 'Specially' DECS is not only allowed, it is encouraged. Please send to staff in your district that may be able to benefit from this information.